

moral growth of thousands of low income and disadvantaged youth in our country.

Madam Speaker, sports figures, through their perseverance, discipline, and good behavior, can serve as examples of excellence, dedication and devotion to our youth.

Chi-Chi Rodriguez was born in Rio Piedras, PR, on October 23, 1935, and rose from the most humble of circumstances as the fifth of six children of an agricultural laborer and a housekeeper. These hardships did not harden him, but motivated him to become a great sportsman, humanitarian and role model.

Chi-Chi joined the ranks of golf professionals at the age of 24, reportedly standing at 5'7" and weighing 117 pounds and has had a stellar career in the sport of golf, earning an impressive record of 38 professional wins, including 8 PGA Tour wins and 22 Senior PGA Tour wins. His Senior PGA Tour records for most consecutive victories, at four, and most consecutive birdies, at eight, still stand.

In 1979, Chi-Chi Rodriguez helped create the Chi-Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation, and the Chi-Chi Rodriguez Academy in Clearwater, FL, which have collectively raised more than \$4 million to help thousands of low-income and disadvantaged youth reach their life potential through educational opportunities and support programs, including a public partnership school, a community service program, a nine-hole golf course and others, which has been recognized by receiving the 1986 National Golf Foundation Award for best Youth Program in the United States, becoming the 758th President Bush's Point of Light, and receiving the Robie Award for Humanitarianism presented by the Jackie Robinson Foundation, among others.

His devotion to others knows no bounds. In addition to all he already does, he also joined with the FBI Agents Association to lead the Chi-Chi Rodriguez G-Man Desert Shootout Tournament devoted to raising funds for College scholarships for the children of FBI agents killed in the line of duty.

In 1989, the United States Golf Association, founded in 1894, granted Chi-Chi Rodriguez its highest honor, the Bob Jones Award, in recognition for his distinguished sportsmanship in golf and in 1994, Chi-Chi was inducted to the first class of the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame for "world class athletic ability," for being "a role model in his community" and for having "a strong record of humanitarian efforts."

In 1992, Chi-Chi Rodriguez was inducted to the World Golf Hall of Fame, "Golf highest honor" and in 1973, he was a member of the U.S. Team that won the Ryder Cup in Muirfield, Scotland.

Chi-Chi Rodriguez has received countless other distinguished awards and recognitions such as the 1974 Charlie Bartlett Award of the Golf Writers Association, the 1981 Richardson Award of the Golf Writers Association of America, the 1982 Father of the Year Award, the 1986 Card Walker Award (Outstanding Contribution to Junior Golf), the 1986 Salvation Army Gold Crest Award, the 12th Roberto Clemente Cup (1986), the 1986 Byron Nelson Award, the 1986 Hispanic Achievement Recognition Award, the 1987 Byron Nelson Award, the 1987 Senior Tour Arnold Palmer Award, the 1988 Fred Raphael Golf Achievement Award, the 1989 Old Tom Morris Award, the 1990 "Caring for Kids" Award, the 1991 Jackie Robinson Humanitarian Award, the

1993 Civilian Meritorious Service Medal presented by the Department of Defense, the 1997 International Network of Golf Award, the 1998 Ford Achievement Award, and the 2003 Paul Runyan Memorial Recognition Award, among others.

He is also a published author who has authored and co-authored several books and articles about golf, such as Chi Chi's Secrets of Power Golf in 1967, Everybody's Golf Book in 1975, Chi Chi's Power Pack, in 1982, Every Golfer's Guide to Lower Scores by Chi-Chi Rodriguez, in 1990, and Chi Chi's Golf Games You Gotta Play, in 2003, among others.

He is very proud of his philosophy on life, which can be summarized by his personal expressions "For me, satisfaction comes from knowing that I was put on this planet to leave it better" and "A man never stands taller than when he stoops to help a child."

Please join me in recognizing that Chi-Chi Rodriguez embodies the spirit of generosity and humanism of his fellow Puerto Rican, Roberto Clemente and that as a native of Puerto Rico, Chi-Chi has proven to be an important role model and source of pride for all Puerto Ricans, as well as all Latin Americans and all immigrants to the U.S. from across the globe.

My resolution congratulates and commends Chi-Chi Rodriguez: (1) for his successes in golf in the United States and throughout the world; (2) for his exemplary conduct as a private citizen; (3) for a life devoted to service to others, in particular, for his help to low income and underprivileged youth, and to the children of FBI agents killed in the line of duty; and (4) and in gratitude for his service as a role model and an inspiration for our youth, the people of Puerto Rico, and the United States.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude with this. One of the great honors of the Members of this House is to recognize our fellow citizens who stand out as exceptional individuals.

It is my great honor to present this legislation for consideration in the House of Representatives with the hope that the example of Chi-Chi Rodriguez can be known across our Nation and that he may serve as a role model for us all.

RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VALERO TEXAS CITY REFINERY

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, today we honor the 100th anniversary of the Valero Texas City Refinery. Over the past 100 years, Texas City, Texas, has established itself as a major center for our Nation's energy production. Texas City's history is a testament to hard work and the American Dream, in that such success has grown from the small refinery established by the Texas City Refining Company so long ago.

In 1908, J.C. Black, joined by more than 100 craftsmen, constructed a refinery consisting of just 11 stills, storage tanks, and a boiler house. In the beginning, the refinery had the capacity to process only 1,500 barrels of oil per day. Enduring a depression, technological revolutions, and the hardships all businesses experience, the Valero Texas City re-

finery now produces 243,000 barrels per day of ultra low sulfur gasoline and diesel.

Texas City matured with this refinery. When America entered World War I and then World War II, the refinery increased production to meet the Nation's petroleum demands, fueling America's victory. During this period the population of Texas City tripled as men and women answered the patriotic call to serve in the Nation's war efforts.

Today, the proud, hard working spirit is alive and well as the Valero Texas City refinery continues to play an integral role in the economic well-being of southeast Texas and the United States. I am proud to honor the thousands of men and women who have been working on our behalf throughout the past 100 years. Texas City's first refinery is indeed deserving of recognition from the United States House of Representatives upon its 100th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "CREDIT CARD FAIR FEE ACT OF 2008"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Credit Card Fair Fee Act of 2008," legislation that would help level the playing field for merchants and retailers negotiating with banks for the cost of certain fees, and ultimately reduce the costs of everyday goods for consumers. I am joined by Representatives CANNON, LOFGREN, SHUSTER, WEINER, DELAHUNT, PLATTS, WELCH, SULLIVAN, WILSON of South Carolina, GOHMERT, HALL of Texas, BOOZMAN, and PETERSON of Pennsylvania.

Every time a consumer uses a payment card—at the mall, at the grocery store, at a gas station, or on the Internet—the merchant is charged a fee. This fee gets divided up three ways—between the merchant's bank, the consumer's bank, and the credit card company. It covers processing fees, fraud protection, billing statements, and other expenses such as system innovations.

Almost 90 percent of this fee comprises a so-called "interchange fee," which is the payment made by the merchant's bank to the consumer's bank. The percentage is set by the credit card companies, generally Visa or MasterCard, and averages 1.75 percent of the total purchase. In 2006, interchange fees totaled approximately \$36 billion, an increase of 117 percent since 2001. In 2007, the fees amounted to \$42 billion, about 17 percent since 2006. These fees are ultimately passed on to all consumers in the form of higher prices for goods and services, whether the consumers purchase these items by credit card, check or cash.

These interchange fees are set by the credit card companies. The two largest, Visa and Mastercard, are associations composed of financial institutions and are owned and controlled by their bank member-owners. Together, Visa and MasterCard control over 73 percent of the volume of transactions on general purpose cards in the United States and approximately 85 percent of the cards issued. Banks that are members of the Visa association are often also members of the MasterCard association.